



Bradley C. Osgood  
Interim Chief of Police

# City of Concord, New Hampshire

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

35 Green Street • 03301-4299

(603) 225-8600

FAX (603) 228-2703

[www.concordpolice.com](http://www.concordpolice.com)

### **MEDIA RELEASE**

**Contact: Lt. Timothy O'Malley  
Detective Lieutenant  
603-225-8600**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Date: July 30, 2014**

**(CPD #14-32542-AR)**

CONCORD – The Concord Police Department arrested:



**Christopher M. Merchant, age 47  
Hanover St.  
Concord, NH 03301**

For the following offenses,

**CHILD PORNOGRAPHY (15 Counts)  
NH RSA 649-A:3 (Class A Felonies)**

This arrest is the result of an investigation that was initiated in January, 2013. The case was referred to the NH Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force, for which Concord PD is a member. The original complaint was forwarded to ICAC by the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC).

NCMEC had been contacted by a juvenile who reported that an adult male was using a social media website in an attempt to interact with the juvenile. Furthermore, it was later learned that the adult suspect had offered to perform sex with the juvenile and also solicited nude photos from the same juvenile.

Concord Police Detectives were able to locate an address and possible name associated with the screen name identified by the juvenile. Detectives were then able to use the Department's Sex Offender

***"Community Committed"***

Tracking Program to identify a Tier 1 Sex Offender who lived at this address. He is identified as Christopher M. Merchant. Photos obtained from the social media website in question matched those on file with Concord PD for Mr. Merchant.

In March 2013, New Boston Police contacted the Concord Police regarding a contact they had with Mr. Merchant. According to NBPD, officers there responded to a burglar alarm at a local business. Upon arrival they found Mr. Merchant inside a vehicle with a 16-year old male. The juvenile would later admit to meeting Merchant on an online chat room. Merchant was arrested by NBPD for a charge of License Prohibition.

It was also learned from Manchester PD that they had had contact with Merchant in February, 2013. At the time Merchant was found with another 16-year-old male. At the time, the Manchester officer found Merchant inside his vehicle with the male juvenile. Both subjects were fully clothed; however their pants were on backwards. The juvenile later reported that he had met Merchant via a social networking site.

Concord Detectives learned that Merchant was possibly using the screen name, "Justin Kray" and presenting himself as an 18 year old male.

During the investigation it was learned that Merchant had failed to register any of his online identifiers, such as email addresses and instant message screen names and social networking website screen names.

On September 18, 2013 Concord Police executed a search warrant at the Hanover Street address at which time Detectives recovered a large quantity of computers and other electronic media evidence.

Merchant was arrested on this date for the following offenses:

**REGISTRATION OF ONLINE IDENTIFIERS (RSA 651-B:4-a), CLASS B FELONY  
REGISTRATION OF ONLINE IDENTIFIERS (RSA 651-B:4-a), CLASS A MISDEMEANOR  
DUTY TO REPORT (RSA 651-B:4), CLASS B FELONY X 2  
DUTY TO REPORT (RSA 651-B:4), CLASS A MISDEMEANOR X 2**

Merchant was eventually indicted on these charges by Merrimack County Grand Jury. He was tried and found Guilty in the same court this past Monday.

Prior to this, Concord Detectives conducted a search of the evidence recovered from Merchant's residence in September (2013). During those searches they recovered images of child pornography. These images included photos of male juveniles in various sexual poses.

Following Merchant's conviction, police alerted the court to the warrants. Merchant was held following his conviction at the Merrimack County House of Corrections & Jail. Detectives served Merchant with the warrants yesterday afternoon. He refused bail and will be arraigned this morning, Wednesday, July 30, 2014 at the 6th Circuit District Division, Concord.

Police ask that anyone with information regarding this matter to please call them at (603) 225-8600 or the Concord Regional Crimeline at (603) 226-3100.